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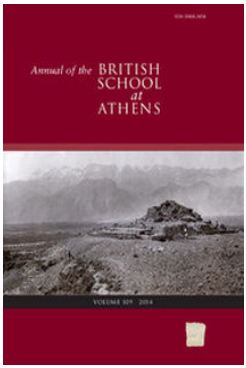

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Mr Ernest Gardner

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PAPERS

READ AT MEETINGS OF THE SCHOOL, OR

OTHERWISE ILLUSTRATING ITS WORK.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE, 1894-5.* BY MR. ERNEST GARDNER.

THE excavations between the Pnyx and the Areopagus made by the German School under the direction of Professor Dörpfeld, have been continued once more during the present season. In consequence of the great interest of the topographical problems involved, it was decided last year that the site should be expropriated by the Greek Government, and thus the excavators are no longer hampered by the necessity of piling up the earth near at hand, so that it could be put back again if required. The liberal subvention made by the German Government to its School was supplemented this year by private subscriptions, for the purpose of these excavations, and consequently it was possible to continue them for a considerable time, and to clear a large area. Unfortunately it has hitherto proved impossible to divert the modern road, which runs right through the site, and conceals the place where Professor Dörpfeld supposes that the fountain Enneacrunus once stood. Until this also can be removed, we can hardly expect to arrive at certainty on the point.

Under these circumstances, the confirmation or refutation of Dr. Dörpfeld's theories of Athenian topography in this region has still to depend on the evidence offered by the surrounding buildings. Here, too, nothing decisive has yet been found, though many very interesting discoveries have been made, which are cited with great ingenuity by Professor Dörpfeld as tending to corroborate his theory. A provisional plan of the excavations, published in the last number of the Athenian *Mittheilungen* for 1894, makes it easy to realise the results which they have so far attained. It may be remembered that last year some traces were found of an early shrine of Dionysus, in the angle between the modern road and the south edge of the Areopagus. This has now been completely cleared; the precinct is triangular in shape, and is completely surrounded by roads. Near one corner are traces of a temple; in the middle are the remains of an altar, in the form of a table resting on four legs, and beside this, in the basis of the altar, is a sinking for a stela. At another corner is the most interesting feature of all: a wine press, originally of quite early period, and showing signs of repairs at

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different dates, and a floor at various levels. All these indications serve to show that there was an early precinct of Dionysus here, on the spot later adopted by the Iobacchi, whose inscription was found last year. Professor Dörpfeld identifies this earlier shrine as the Lenaeum or the Dionysium in the Marshes (Limnae). This is not the place or time to discuss the probability of the identification, which may be confirmed or disproved by further discoveries; but it is only fair to notice that it corresponds fairly well with the position assigned to this early Dionysium by Maas in his dissertation *de Lenaeo et Delphinio*, and is certainly more probable than the position near the Dipylum gate formerly assigned to the Lenaeum by Professor Dörpfeld.* Of course there are arguments on the other side, which need not be repeated here, since they are familiar to all those who are interested in Athenian topography. The only one that needs to be repeated in this new connexion is that the name Limnae, the marshes, certainly seems an unlikely one for this high district. The ground between the Acropolis, the Areopagus, and the Pnyx forms a watershed, with a fairly rapid descent down the valley between the two latter hills; nor does there appear to be any geological reason why the conformation of the ground in early times should have been different enough to cause a swamp to form here. The overflow from the springs and wells, or later from the aqueduct built in the sixth century, does not seem to supply an adequate reason for the name. It was expected that some trace of the Odeum described by Pausanias near the Enneacrunus would be found near the precinct of Dionysus, but no certain remains of it have yet been discovered. The lower parts of several buildings which face on to the surrounding roads are fairly well preserved, and some of them are particularly interesting for their pavements, which are almost like a simple mosaic, made of pebbles cut flat on their upper side. Some of these probably go back at least to the fifth century B.C., a much earlier date than has hitherto been attested for this kind of work.

Another very interesting discovery has resulted from the complete clearing of the small precinct previously found on the east of the ancient road. The reliefs found in this precinct were sufficient to show that it was dedicated to some god of healing, though the excavators rightly hesitated to call it a sanctuary of Asclepius. An inscription

* See Harrison and Verrall, *Mythology and Monuments, etc.*, p. 21.

has been found proving that it was dedicated to Asclepius and Amynus; that is to say, no doubt, Amynus was the earlier Attic hero to whom it really belonged, though, like all other subordinate divinities of healing, he had later to share his honours with Asclepius. The same inscription mentions also another associated hero, Dexion, who had a separate precinct, of which the position is not known. His name is of peculiar interest, because it is said that the poet Sophocles, who in his lifetime was priest of the healing hero Alcon, was worshipped after his death under the name of Dexion. New light is constantly being thrown on these heroes or deities of healing, and the subject is daily becoming more complicated and more interesting.

The ancient road has also been followed up to where it turns off sharply to the left, to mount the ascent of the Acropolis. Unfortunately the hill at this point has been so much denuded that hardly any ancient remains are left, and hence it is impossible to test by excavation the correctness of Professor Dörpfeld's theory that the Eleusinion occupied this angle of the road. This is again a disappointment. It is possible that a continuation of the excavations, especially under the modern road, may lead to the discovery of some inscriptions or other indisputable evidence as to the controverted points in the topography of this region. But it seems as if we must after all be content to draw our inference from the evidence that is now available, and under these circumstances it is hardly to be hoped that we shall as yet have any complete agreement among Athenian topographers, or that the era of controversy is likely to come to a speedy end. There is plenty of new material to discuss, but very little of such a nature as to close discussion.

During these excavations an attempt was also made to solve the question whether there was a subterranean passage beneath the orchestra of the theatre of Dionysus, as in so many other theatres recently excavated. A premature announcement of the discovery of this passage was made in the Greek newspapers, which unfortunately, in spite of Professor Dörpfeld's immediate contradiction, came to be repeated in some English periodicals. What was found was nothing but some irregular cuttings in the rock, of no particular shape, and evidently not intended for use; one well-like hole was very early, and contained fragments of Mycenaean pottery; others appear to be mere

soundings, perhaps taken when the theatre was being made or altered, to ascertain the nature of the ground. It was also found that the rock was cut away in a straight ledge, just under the line of the stage of Phaedrus; this cutting, which is evidently an early one, may not be without importance in the reconstruction of the early theatre; it shows that the orchestra of levelled rock extends only over the part bordered by the lowest seats of the auditorium: outside this may have been either earth or a wooden platform.

At Eleusis, the excavations of the Archaeological Society have been continued, under the direction of M. Skias; and the outlying portions of the site are being slowly cleared. Amongst the most recent discoveries is a plaque of late red-figured style, representing some ceremony connected with the mysteries; on the pediment above is a figure of Artemis.

The American School, wishing to follow up its successful identification of the demes of Icaria and Plothea, at the back of Pentelicus, made excavations this spring at Kukunari, beyond Stamata. The project was due to Professor Merriam, and was carried out after his death under the direction of Professor Richardson. No topographical results were obtained, such as might test the correctness of Professor Milchhöfer's identification of the site as Hecale. But an interesting inscription was found containing a sacrificial calendar: the days and offerings are prescribed for various divinities, and the price of the victims is in every case added. The local gods and heroes seem to belong mostly to the Marathonian tetrapolis; many of the names are new and interesting.

Other excavations in Attica have been concerned with the opening of tumuli. The most successful of these were conducted by the Swedish archaeologist, Dr. S. Wide, at Aphidnae; he found in a tumulus many graves of Mycenaean period, containing vases, ornaments in gold and other metals, and also some skeletons, one of gigantic size. At Brauron other tumuli were opened by the Greek authorities, but without much result, as they had been previously rifled. And at Karáa, at the foot of Hymettus, Mr. Myres, of the British School, investigated the nature of the stony mounds so common in this region, marked on the German map as tumuli. After opening two or three of these, he came to the conclusion that they were merely heaps of stones gathered off the fields,

of no funereal significance. But many of them go so deep beneath the present level of the soil, that they evidently are remains of very early cultivation.

The temple of Poseidon on Calauria (the modern Poros) has also been excavated by Dr. S. Wide. It is famous for its view of Athens across the Saronic Gulf, which induced Demosthenes to choose it as the scene of his exile and his death; in early time it was also the centre of a religious amphictyony of considerable influence. Unfortunately almost everything above ground had been carried off for building purposes, and all that could be found was the plan of the foundations. These show the position of the temple and its enclosing precinct, and also of an agora beside it, flanked with porticoes. One of these, which is well preserved, is of quite early date, showing polygonal walls and capitals not much later than those of the Parthenon. A sacred road evidently led up through the agora to the temple. But little was found in the way of portable antiquities or inscriptions; some proto-Corinthian vase-fragments and a Mycenaean idol show the site to have been used from early times.

At Epidaurus, the shafts sunk in the stadium last summer by M. Cabbadias led to most interesting discoveries, and consequently the whole border of the seats, as well as both ends of the course, is now being completely cleared. In the stadium, as in the theatre, the seats of white limestone are preserved all round, at least in the front row, and to some extent behind it; the gutter in front of these is also preserved. But the greatest discovery of all is the line of the goal or starting-point —it is clear that what was the goal for the stadium must have been the starting-point for the diaulos. This is excellently preserved at the deeper end; it resembles that found in the stadium at Olympia, but with the difference that at Epidaurus we see preserved not only the sockets for the posts that separated the places assigned to the various competitors, but the marble posts actually standing. These were doubtless used for the same purpose as had already been suggested by Mr. Bosanquet in a paper read at the British School for the sockets at Olympia—to carry the ends of the strings that separated the courses assigned to the various competitors in a sprint race, according to the custom followed in athletic games at the present day. The seats on one side show dedicatory inscriptions; on the other, inscriptions re-

cording the manumission of slaves in the simplest possible formula. Along each side of the course are placed five stones, dividing it into six spaces of one hundred feet each.

The excavation of the Heraeum near Argos has been brought to a conclusion this spring by Professor Waldstein. In addition to the two temples and their surrounding buildings, as previously cleared, a fine portico has now been quite uncovered. The most important finds of the present season are some more fragments of the metopes of the temple. Two of the heads are in fine condition, and one of them is among the best things that have been discovered upon the site; it is the helmeted head of a warrior, in excellent style; and it certainly will form an important link in the argument about the school to which the sculptures are to be assigned. Its publication must of course be awaited before any more can be said upon this matter. Fragments of pottery were again discovered in great numbers, mostly of the same early styles as before, though a few pieces are of a peculiar character. There is now a great mass of material from these excavations in the museum at Athens, which will take a long time to work up; its publication will be awaited with considerable interest. Among the smaller finds may be noted an early inscription on bronze, which is a fine specimen of the Argive alphabet, and apparently contains a portion of a law or a decree.

At Mycenae, M. Tsountas has continued his excavations. Curiously enough, his chief find this season was a most unexpected one—a large hoard of silver coins of good Greek period. Perhaps its owner may have chosen Mycenae to hide his treasure, as being the last place where anybody would be likely to look for it.

M. Tsountas also opened, during the summer, several of the prehistoric graves on the island of Amorgos. He found many objects of the Mycenaean or earlier periods, including lance-heads, pottery, terracottas, and a statuette of very primitive style.

On Delos, the excavations of the French School were continued during the summer by M. Couve; they have been devoted mostly to the clearing of the prosperous town which grew up around the sacred precinct in late Greek times. Several houses, of Hellenistic or early Roman period, prove to be preserved to a considerable height, and the decoration of their walls, as well as the statues and other ornaments which they contained, have in many cases been recovered. Among the

statues is an extremely fine copy of the Diadumenos of Polyclitus, which must rank higher than any hitherto known; another very beautiful work is a draped female statue, which recalls the type of the finest Tanagra statuettes. It is to be hoped that these statues will soon be transported to the Museum at Athens; at present they remain at Delos, exposed to the weather and to the risk of even more violent damage. The fine statue of Ofellius also deserves better care.

The French excavations at Delphi have also been resumed, with the help of a fresh subvention from the French Chamber, which has now voted about £30,000 for this work, apart from the regular grants made to the French School. There is not very much in the way of new discoveries to report since this time last year; the excavations were continued through the greater part of the summer; among other things found was a very fine statue of Antinous, almost perfect in preservation, and some good bronzes, including an archaic Apollo and a copy of the Doryphorus type. So much has been written already about the sculpture and other monuments discovered in the previous season that there is no need to add any general description here; no more buildings have been identified as yet, beside those mentioned in last year's report. But a further study of what had already been found has led to some interesting results, which have already been published by M. Homolle at an open meeting of the French School, and may be recorded here with due acknowledgment.

I have in the first place to correct one or two mistakes in my last year's report, such as it is difficult to avoid in writing very soon after a discovery. The horse's head, which is there quoted as probably being the only fragment found of the pedimental sculptures of the temple, has been fitted on to a body, and certainly does not belong to the temple sculptures at all. It is to be feared that there is now no hope of finding these architectural sculptures; probably they must either have been taken away bodily by some later emperor to Rome or Constantinople, or else they must have been destroyed together with the marble front, which the Alcmaeonidae generously substituted for the stone one which they had contracted to supply. No remains of this marble front have been found, except one triglyph, which is buried deep in the foundations of the temple; nor does the form of the architectural members which have survived suggest a sixth-century origin. It

seems clear that the temple of which the remains are now visible must be due to a rebuilding of which there is no historical record; but Pausanias speaks of the pedimental sculptures by Praxias and Androsthenes as if they were still to be seen on the temple.

Several more metopes and fragments of metopes have been added to the treasury of the Athenians; nearly thirty can now be reconstructed in whole or in part, and this is the total number contained by the building. It appears probable, as M. Homolle suggests,* that the two façades, of six metopes each, were accorded to the exploits of Heracles and of Theseus respectively, and that one side was occupied by the metopes representing the contest with Geryon, and his cattle, and the fight with the Amazons: the subject of the other side seems still uncertain. The series of caryatid figures, of which four have been recovered, apparently belonged to a separate building or small portico, not, as had at first seemed possible, to the treasury of the Siphnians.

The sculptural decoration of the Siphnian treasury has now been arranged and studied with care, and it forms a most valuable series. The pediment is apparently the earliest of all; it is, like the rest, of Parian marble,† and represents the contest between Heracles and Apollo for the tripod; it has the remarkable peculiarity that the upper part of the background is cut away so as to leave the figures in the round, while the lower part is only in relief. The square-cut forms of the relief, and the rather squat proportions of the figures, are of a very archaic appearance. On the frieze a gradual development can be traced, from the very early style of some parts to a far freer and more advanced treatment in other groups. The subject seems to be the Apotheosis of Heracles on the west side; the preparations for the race between Pelops and Oenomaus on the south; the fight of Patroclus and the other heroes before Troy over the body of Sarpedon on the east, with the group of the seated gods looking on from either end, and the Gigantomachy on the north. These subjects are no longer a matter of conjecture; it has been discovered that every figure had its name painted either on the field of the relief or on its margin; and although the paint has in every case disappeared, the faint scratches

* *Bull. Corr. Hell.* 1894, p. 183. I am indebted to this account throughout these remarks.

† My statement about this pediment in last year's report is erroneous, but by a singular chance attributes it to Peloponnesian art.

made on the stone to guide the painter still remain, and can with care be deciphered. The variety and vigour of conception of these sculptures, and their care and delicacy of execution, must be seen to be realised. Casts of all the finest sculptures from Delphi have been made, and were exhibited last winter in the École des Beaux-Arts at Paris; they are now in the Louvre, and a glance at them is better than any amount of description. The school to which the sculpture of the Siphnian treasury must be assigned has already caused some discussion. The names attached to the figures offer no indication; here, as in other works found at Delphi, they are added in the local alphabet. But on the shield of one of the warriors is incised an inscription in very curious decorated forms of letters, which was at first thought to have no meaning. This has now been deciphered with great ingenuity by M. Homolle as the artist's signature in the Argive alphabet; unfortunately his name is lost; but the Argive form of Ϝ (Λ) is clear, and there are other indications of an Argive connexion. If so, we shall be able to quote the sculpture of the Siphnian treasury as an example of Argive art at the close of the sixth century; and with it, and the corresponding reliefs from the treasury of the Athenians, we shall have a wealth of material for comparison and contrast which cannot fail to throw much light on the history of Greek art at the most interesting period of its development.

In the case of so great an excavation as that of Delphi, it is impossible to do more than comment on a few of the most important discoveries. Provisional publications are promised, and will be awaited with the greatest interest. In particular, the great building inscription, dealing with the restoration of the temple in the fourth century, may be expected to help to solve the difficult problem of the date of the present remains of the temple.

At present the question of the preservation of the monuments of Greece, and their restoration if necessary, is even more prominent than that of their excavation. Public attention was drawn by the earthquakes of last spring to the dangerous state of the Parthenon. It is true that none of the fragments which then fell were of very great importance; but an examination of their fractures showed that many of the cracks, which it was hoped were only superficial, went deep into the substance of the marble, and made the preservation of many parts

of the building extremely precarious. The same conclusion was reached by the French architect, M. Magne, as the result of a minute study of the Parthenon both before and after the earthquakes. A scaffolding has been erected, to facilitate a close study of the inner architrave of the western front, which is the part in most immediate danger of falling, and the German architect, Herr Durm, has undertaken the task of supervising the necessary repairs. It is agreed on all hands that a new block of marble is necessary at this point; but all round the building, especially at the corners and along the west front, there are most ominous cracks, which require the most serious attention. It is to be hoped that some means will be found by which the Parthenon may be put out of danger, without being disfigured either by new blocks or by unsightly bands and clamps. The remedy is not an easy one, and is worthy of the attention of all architects and of all who have any affection for the noblest monuments of Greek art.

Another monument of Athens, the Panathenaic Stadium, is to undergo restoration on a very magnificent scale. In consequence of the project of the international athletic meeting, to be held in Athens in the spring of 1896 under the title of the Olympic games, it was resolved to put the stadium into a fit state for practical use; and one of the most munificent of modern Greeks, M. Avérof, has given a large sum of money to supply it with marble seats, like those once placed there by Herodes Atticus. Some portions of the decoration provided by Herodes are preserved, and these will serve as a model for the whole restoration.

In the National Museum, much progress has been made with the arrangement of the antiquities. All the vases, bronzes, and terra-cottas have now been transferred from the Polytechnic into this museum, which is now one of the most complete and varied in the world, as well as unrivalled in many branches. The vases are admirably arranged and exhibited, and many early classes can now be studied in Athens as they can nowhere else. A catalogue of the vases by M. Couve, of the French School, will soon appear, and M. de Ridder, of the same School, is also employed upon a catalogue of the bronzes, of which a part is already published. All the bronzes from the Acropolis, including those recovered and cleaned by Mr. Bather, are now exhibited in the National Museum. The work of sorting and cataloguing the

vase fragments from the Acropolis, by Dr. Wolters, Dr. Gräf, and Dr. Hartwig, is now completed, and arrangements are being made for its publication. It is to be hoped that this magnificent series will soon be made accessible to study.

To turn next to Byzantine work, the restoration of the mosaics of the Church at Daphne is now all but completed. The process by which these mosaics were removed while the dome was rebuilt has been recorded in a previous report. Almost all of them have now been restored to their places in the church, from the canvas to which they had been temporarily transferred. No attempt has been made to complete them, or to restore the missing portions. The excavations of the Greek Archaeological Society within the walls of the monastery have led to some interesting results, and have revealed much of the plan of the early conventual buildings. A study of these has been made by M. Millet, who proposes to continue the excavations. Unfortunately another interesting convent in Athens itself, that of St. Andrew, near the Cathedral, has been ruthlessly destroyed to make room for the new offices of the Metropolitan Church. The refectory of this convent contained some very valuable frescoes, which had for some time been concealed by whitewash—among others a fine example of the Tree of Jesse, now hopelessly lost.

Outside Greece, a good deal has been done during the past season to recover or to study the monuments of the art and civilization of Greece and of other kindred peoples. The brilliant results of Mr. Arthur Evans's studies in Crete are already known to the readers of the *Journal of Hellenic Studies;* Mr. Evans made another short journey in Crete this spring, accompanied by Mr. Myres, and attained some interesting results in the remains of Mycenaean civilization. Dr. Halbherr, though impeded in his excavations by political difficulties, succeeded in opening some tombs which were intact, and yielded a rich supply of Mycenaean vases and other antiquities. His excavations were subsidised by the Archaeological Institute of America. In Cyprus the British Museum again conducted excavations, this time at Curium, under the direction of Mr. Walters. As well as many later things, there were found here also some Mycenaean vases with human figures, of peculiar types.

In Egypt, an attempt has been made on a considerable scale to test

the possibility of profitable excavations at Alexandria; these were made by Mr. Hogarth, on behalf of the Egypt Exploration Fund, and he was joined by Mr. Benson and Mr. Bevan, of the British School at Athens, and by the local archæologist, M. Botti. Unfortunately the results were mainly negative. The great depth of the soil, and the bad condition of what is preserved beneath it, make excavation within the town of Alexandria almost impracticable. Nor do the tombs in the neighbourhood seem much more likely to repay the work spent on them. On the whole, it must be reluctantly acknowledged that Alexandria is not a site of which any great expectations can be entertained, and it certainly is among the most expensive and difficult to excavate.

It was announced last year that the walls of the Homeric Troy had at last been discovered—of the Troy, that is, which was contemporary with the Mycenaean civilization in Greece, and of which the traditional greatness is recorded in the "Iliad." The walls of this city have been almost entirely cleared during the past summer by Professor Dörpfeld, with a grant from the German Imperial purse. They are of very fine construction, and are regularly built; the most peculiar feature in their construction is that every few yards the line is a little set back, so as to form an advancing angle—a feature noticed also by Dr. Noack in the walls of the fortress of Gha on Lake Copais. The greater part of the circuit of the walls is excellently preserved, though much obscured by the Roman foundations of the later Ilium; three towers, one of which contains a cistern, may still be seen.

The great loss sustained by English archaeology in the death of Sir Charles Newton received a full tribute from all the archaeological bodies in Greece. Another event which cast a gloom over the season was the sudden death, from pneumonia, of Professor Merriam, formerly Director of the American School, who had just returned to Greece to continue his work. Happily it is possible to conclude with a more pleasant recollection, in recording the tribute paid by all archaeologists here, Greeks and foreigners alike, to Professor Ernst Curtius at the dedication of his bust in the Museum at Olympia. That those splendidly conceived and ideally conducted excavations were due to his energy and perseverance would alone suffice for his renown; but it is even more encouraging to think how much of what has since been done is due to the not unworthy emulation of so excellent an example.